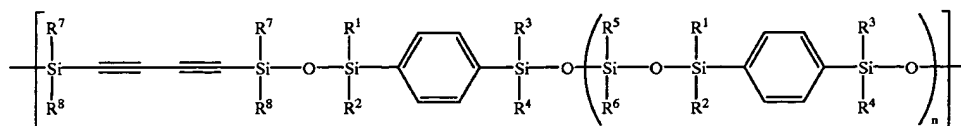


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a thermogravimetric analyzer for 60 minutes at 200 and 250° C. and for 120 minutes at 300 and 330° C., respectively in an air atmosphere at a flow rate of 50 cc/min. The sample exhibited excellent oxidative stability over the time frame of the experiment, experiencing only a 3.96% weight loss. After completion of the thermo-oxidative study, the sample was visibly void-free and still retained flexibility, as determined by bending the sample.



Example #20

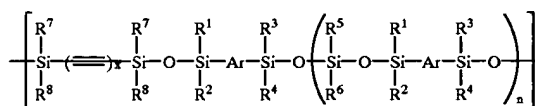
Bulk Thermal Curing of the Elastomeric Precursor: Linear Poly(Silarylene-Siloxane-Acetylene) where $n=3$ (See Example #8 for Synthesis)

To a circular aluminum pan pretreated with a teflon mold release was weighed 1.6053 g of the linear poly(silarylene-siloxane-acetylene). In order to remove any volatile material, the sample was placed on a hot plate and isothermed at 125° C. under dynamic vacuum conditions. Following the degassing procedure, the sample was placed in a tube furnace and converted to an elastomer by heating sequentially under an atmosphere of dry argon for 120 minutes at 200, 250, 300 and 350° C., respectively. After completion of the isothermal curing cycle, the liquid linear poly(silarylene-siloxane-acetylene) had been transformed to a tough, void-free, flexible material.

Obviously, many modifications and variations of the present invention are possible in light of the above teachings. It is therefore to be understood that, within the scope of the appended claims, the invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically described.

What is claimed is:

1. A linear polymer comprising repeating units represented by the formula



wherein

- (a) n is an integer greater than or equal to 0,
 (b) x is an integer greater than or equal to 1, and



represents an unconjugated acetylenic group when x is equal to 1 or conjugated acetylenic groups when x is greater than 1;

- (c) Ar is an aromatic group, and
 (c) $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7$ and R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, haloalkyl, haloaryl and mixtures thereof.
 2. The linear polymer of claim 1 wherein x is 2.
 3. The linear polymer of claim 1 wherein Ar is phenylene.
 4. The linear polymer of claim 1 wherein $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7$ and R^8 are CH_3 .

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5. The linear polymer of claim 1 wherein n is 0.
 6. The linear polymer of claim 1 wherein n is 1.
 7. The linear polymer of claim 1 wherein n is 2.
 8. The linear polymer of claim 1 wherein n is 3.
 9. A linear polymer comprising repeating units represented by the formula

wherein n is an integer greater than or equal to 0, and $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7$ and R^8 are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, haloalkyl, haloaryl and mixtures thereof.

10. The linear polymer of claim 9 wherein $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7$ and R^8 are CH_3 .

11. The linear polymer of claim 9 wherein n is 0.
 12. The linear polymer of claim 9 wherein n is 1.
 13. The linear polymer of claim 9 wherein n is 2.
 14. The linear polymer of claim 9 wherein n is 3.
 15. A linear polymer made by a process comprising the steps of

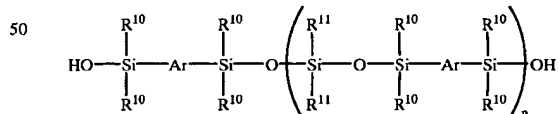
(a) reacting hexachlorobutadiene with n -butyl lithium to form 1,4-dilithio-1,3-butadiyne,

(b) reacting the 1,4-dilithio-1,3-butadiyne of step (a) with (dimethylamino)(R^9 -disubstituted)chlorosilane, wherein each R^9 is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, haloalkyl, haloaryl and mixtures thereof, to form 1,4-bis(dimethylamino, R^9 -disubstituted-silyl)butadiyne,

(c) reacting 1,4-bis(hydroxy- R^{10} -disubstituted-silyl)-Ar, wherein Ar is an aromatic group,

wherein R^{10} is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, haloalkyl, haloaryl and mixtures thereof, with bis(dimethylamino) R^{11} -disubstituted-silane,

wherein R^{11} is independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, haloalkyl, haloaryl and mixtures thereof, to form a prepolymer of the formula:



wherein n is an average value greater than or equal to 0, and wherein the value of n is controlled by selecting the initial molar ratio of 1,4-bis(hydroxy- R^{10} -disubstituted-silyl) benzene and bis(dimethylamino) R^{11} -disubstituted-silane, and

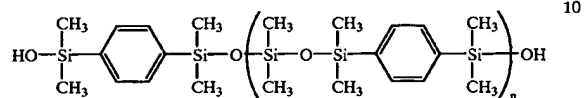
(d) reacting the prepolymer of step (c) with the 1,4-bis(dimethylamino, R^9 -disubstituted-silyl)butadiyne of step (b) to form the linear polymer.

16. The linear polymer of claim 15 wherein the Ar group is phenylene.

17. A linear polymer made by a process comprising the steps of

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- (a) reacting hexachlorobutadiene with n-butyl lithium to form 1,4-dilithio-1,3-butadiyne,
 (b) reacting the 1,4-dilithio-1,3butadiyne of step (a) with (dimethylamino)dimethylchlorosilane to form 1,4-bis(dimethylaminodimethylsilyl)butadiyne,
 (c) reacting 1,4-bis(hydroxydimethylsilyl)benzene with bis(dimethylamino)dimethylsilane, to form a prepolymer of the formula:



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- wherein n is an average value greater than or equal to 0, and wherein the value of n is controlled by selecting the initial molar ratio of 1,4-bis(hydroxydimethylsilyl)benzene and bis(dimethylamino)dimethylsilane, and
 (d) reacting the prepolymer of step (c) with the 1,4-bis(dimethylaminodimethylsilyl)butadiyne of step (b) to form the linear polymer.

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